of additional buildings for hostel, hangar and office and acquisition of the adjacent Sultanpur airfield. The upgradation would increase the capacity from 40 trainees per year to 100 trainees per year.

(d) There are three flying clubs operational in Andhra Pradesh namely Andhra Pradesh Aviation Academy, Flytech Aviation and Wings Aviation(P) Limited. Together these clubs have trained 325 candidates during the last three years.

(e) It is proposed to establish a new flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra to augment the existing training infrastructure in the country.

Re-employment of retired pilots

†718. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) since when the shortage of pilots in Indian and other airlines is being felt;

(b) the estimated shortage of the pilots in the country at present;

(c) whether the services of retired pilots in different airlines are being taken;

(d) what are the arrangements about their health check up prior to their moving for the flight; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to remove the shortage of the pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As of now there is no shortage of pilots in Indian airlines. However, some airlines like Alliance Air, Jet Airways, Air Sahara etc. are facing shortage of pilots since 2005.

(b) At present there is an estimated shortfall of 619 commercial pilots (which includes shortfall made good by deployment of foreigners as Pilot Commanders) being felt by scheduled airlines operators.

(c) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The retired pilots in different airlines are required to undergo their medical check every six months prior to exercising the privileges granted under their licence. They are also required to undergo routine medical check up by the company doctor prior to moving for the flight.

(e) The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for pilots for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enchance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India.

Shortage of skilled pilots

719. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government to address the shortfall of skilled pilots for the fast growing aviation industry?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharasthra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India.

(c) Does not arise.